

I was told you were accepting comments on this issue and I wish to state my position. The internet should not be viewed as the same medium as telephone lines merely to extend governmental powers without the behest of the citizens. Although the same technology is used, it should not mean that things such as 'backdoors' should be forcibly inserted merely to satisfy a legal requirement.

I value my privacy very much as a citizen and even the founding fathers thought the same. There is one who said the Bill of Rights was dangrous and unnecessary, since it outlined things that were already stated via the powers the Government did not have. Yet, now we have cases such as this where privacy is being thrown aside in favor of those powers. I understand the seeming need and usefulness of knowing the communications of all citizens, but that oversteps my own personal right to privacy. In my opinion, the Government has no need nor right to monitor my private communications 'just to make sure'. That is part of living in the US... freedom from opression, be it actual or threatened, and freedom of speech. If this policy were enacted, it would curtail the ability for people to speak freely for fear of who would be listening in on the conversation.

Moreover, e-mails should not be 'shimmied' into this by technicalities. I view an e-mail the same as post, and if I knew the Post Office was opening and looking in my mail I would be severely dissapointed. That lack of faith with those I entrust my personal communications is unacceptable, so I expect no less for the electronic version. Merely because it is 'on the internet' does not make it need to be specially regulated in any sort of way.

My comment on the issue, in summary, is to not enact excessively draconian laws as I feel the case is here. I do not want to fear my Government eavesdropping what I say and holding that over my head, that would make our contry no better than those we ideologically oppose. The fact refusing to show your papers when walking down the street is a crime now is bad enough, please don't make this any worse. Thank you for your time.